With the development of our Comprehensive School Counseling Program, we as the School Counseling Department resourced out to other school districts for effective approaches to displaying the program publically. We decided to compare the information presented on three random school counseling department websites. The three schools compared comprised of Clark School in Erie, PA; Valley View Elementary School in Boise, Idaho; and Stoneybrook Elementary School in York, PA.

When comparing these three schools, we noticed many similarities among the type of information presented on their counseling websites. Each school counseling department listed some of the counseling lessons they perform at the school while also mentioning the different services that a school counselor carries out. Each school counseling website mentioned resources for the parents to help increase their successes at home and to offer additional assistance to parents when confronted with difficult situations at home. These school websites also had some concerns in regard to the development and type of delivery system they have set. These three schools lacked to share the aspect of the ASCA National Model while not sharing their individual preferred type of counseling. There was no mention of the exact guidance curriculum that would be instructed each year based on grade level. These three schools seemed to have similar positive and negative aspects in common and really seem to miss some key information in developing a fully comprehensive counseling program to share with key stakeholders.

In contrast, we had found that one elementary school’s website stood to show more information and accountability behind the programs they were implementing. The Valley View Elementary in Boise, Idaho seemed to have a more comprehensive view of the potential for the ASCA model. This school displayed classroom lessons for grades K-6 that followed the Boise School District curriculum with links to the lesson topics for each grade level and what standards were met. Valley View Elementary also provided a career awareness lessons for each grade level as well as discussing small group and individual counseling opportunities. Valley View Elementary provided information for the parents with a direct contact for a parenting workshop. A final aspect that allowed Valley View to prevail was the aspect of the school district website providing a clear explanation of the tasks of the school counselor and what their duties include.

This comparison of these three schools has provided our counseling department with a first-hand glance at positive and negative aspects of an effective counseling website. We hope to base our website off of the positive displayed information and ensure the use of those negative aspects to avoid any downfalls. We have gathered this information to provide a comprehensive understanding of what the school counseling department at Baker Elementary has to offer to students, parents, teachers, community members and key stakeholders.